The Pleasant and Delightful

HISTORY

OF

Jack and the Giants.

PART THE SECOND.

NOTTINGHAM:
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The HISTORY of JACK and the GIANTS.

CHAP. I.

How King Arthur's Son going to seek his fortune, lights of Jack; and of the wonderful things performed by him, while they travelled together.

KING Arthur's only son desired his father to furnish him with a certain sum of money, that he might go and seek his fortune in the principality of Wales, where a very beautiful lady lived, whom he heard was possessed with seven evil spirits; the King, his father, counselled him much against it, yet he would not be persuaded from it; so he granted what he requested: which was, one horse loaded with money, with another for himself to ride on. Thus he went forth without any attendance; now after seven day's travel he came to a market town in Wales, where he beheld a vast concourse of people gathered together, the King's son demanded the reason of it, and was told that they had arrested a corpse for many large sums of money, which the deceased owed when he died: The King's son replied, "It is a pity the creditors should be so "cruel; go and bury the dead, says he, and "let

" let the creditors come to my lodgings, and " their debts ſhall be diſcharged." Accordingly they came, and in ſuch great numbers, that before night, he had almoſt left himſelf moneyleſs.

Now Jack the Giant Killer being there, and ſeeing the generoſity of the King's ſon, deſired to be his ſervant; it was agreed upon, and the next morning they ſet forwards.

Now Jack had a ſmall ſpell in his pocket, and at noon it ſerved to give them refreſhment, which done, they had a penny left between them. The afternoon they ſpent in travel in a familiar diſcourſe, till the ſun began to grow low, at which time the King's ſon ſaid, Jack, ſince we have no money, where can we think to lodge this night. Jack replied, maſter, we will do well enough, for I have an uncle lives within two miles of this place, he is a huge and monſtrous Giant, having three heads, he'll fight five hundred men in armour, and make them flee before him; alas, ſaid the King's ſon, what ſhall we do there? he'll certainly chop us up at a mouthful; nay, we are ſcarce ſufficient to fill one of his hollow teeth. It's no matter for that, quoth Jack, I myſelf will go before, and prepare the way for you, there tarry and wait my return. He waits and Jack rides full ſpeed, and coming to the gate of the Caſtle, he immediately knocked with ſuch force, as made the neighbouring hills

refound. The Giant with a voice like thunder, roared out, who's there, he anſwered, none but your poor couſin Jack. Quoth he, what news with my poor couſin Jack? he replied, dear uncle, heavy news, god-wat prithee, what heavy news can come to me? I am a Giant with three heads, and beſides thou knoweſt I can fight 500 men in armour, and make them flee like chaff before the wind: O! but, ſaid Jack, here's the King's ſon coming with 1000 men in armour to kill you, and deſtroy all that you have. O! couſin Jack, this is heavy news indeed; but I have a large vault under ground, where I will immediately run and hide myſelf; and thou ſhalt lock, bolt, and bar me in; and keep me in till the King's ſon is gone. Now Jack having ſecured the Giant, he returned and brought his maſter, and were both heartily merry with wine and of the dainties which the houſe afforded. That night they reſted in pleaſant lodgings, while the poor Giant lay trembling in a dark vault under ground. In the morning Jack ſupplies his maſter with freſh ſupplies of gold and ſilver, and then ſet him three miles on his journey, concluding he was out of the ſmell of the Giant; and then returned, and let his uncle out of the hole, who aſked Jack what he ſhould give him for his care, in regard he ſaw his caſtle was not demoliſhed. Why, quoth Jack, I deſire nothing but the old ruſty ſword, cap, coat,

and

and ſlippers at your bed's head. Ay, ſaid the Giant, thou ſhalt have them; and be ſure you keep them for my ſake; for they are things of excellent uſe. The coat will keep you inviſible, the cap will furniſh you with knowledge, the ſword will cut in ſunder whatever you ſtrike, and the ſhoes are of extraordinary ſwiftneſs; theſe may be ſerviceable to you, and therefore take them with all my heart.—Jack takes them, and immediately follows his old maſter.

CHAP II.

How Jack petitioned King Arthur for leave to purſue divers Giants, which was granted.

JACK having been ſucceſsful in all his undertakings, and reſolving not to be idle in future, but to perform what ſervice he could for the honour of the King and nation, humbly beſought his Majeſty to fit him out with a horſe and money to travel in ſearch of new adventures. Now when the King heard his noble propoſition, and duly conſidered the miſchievous practices of thoſe blood-thirſty Giants, he immediately furniſhed him with neceſſaries for his progreſs, after which Jack took leave of the King, and all the truſty and hardy Knights of the round table; when, after much ſalutation and friendly greeting, they

parted, the King and Nobles to their country palaces, and Jack in purſuit of fortune's favour; taking with him his cap of knowledge, his ſword of ſharpneſs, his ſhoes of ſwiftneſs, and alſo his inviſible coat, the better to perform the dangerous enterprize which now lay before him.

CHAP. III.

How Jack ſlew a monſterous Giant, and delivered a noble Knight and his fair Spouſe from Death and Deſtruction.

JACK travelled over hills and great mountains, and on the third day came to a ſpacious and large wood, thro' which he muſt paſs; where, on a ſudden, he heard dreadful ſhrieks and cries. Whereupon, caſting his eyes around, he beheld a monſterous Giant, who was dragging along a worthy Knight and his fair Lady by the hair of the head, with as much eaſe as if they had been a pair of gloves. This ſight melted honeſt Jack into tears of pity and compaſſion! whereupon, alighting from his horſe, which he left tied to an oak tree, and putting on his inviſible coat, under which he carried his infallible ſword, he came up to the Giant, and tho' he made ſeveral ſtrokes at him, yet by reaſon of his largeneſs, he could not reach the trunk of his body, but only wounded his thighs in ſeveral places; at length,

length, giving him a ſwinging ſtroke with both hands, he cut off both his legs, juſt below the garter, ſo that the trunk of his body made not only the trees to ſhake, but the earth tremble with the force of his fall; by which the Knight and his fair Lady eſcaped his rage.

Then had Jack time to talk with him: ſo ſetting his foot upon his neck, he ſaid, thou ſavage and barbarous wretch, I am come to execute upon thee a juſt reward of your villainy. And with that he ran him through and through, when the monſter ſent forth a hideous groan, and ſo yielded up his life and breath into

into the hands of the victorious Jack the Giant Killer; while the noble Knight and his virtuous Lady were both joyful ſpectators of his ſudden death, and their deliverance. The courteous Knight, and his fair Lady not only returned him hearty thanks for their deliverance, but likewiſe invited him into their houſe, there to refreſh himſelf after his dreadful encounter; as likewiſe to receive an ample reward, by way of gratitude for his good ſervices. No, quoth Jack, I cannot be at eaſe, till I find out the den which was the Monſter's habitation. The Knight hearing this grew ſorrowful, and replied, noble ſtranger, it is too much to run a great hazard. Nay, quoth Jack, if there be another, I ſay, if there be twenty, I would ſhed the laſt drop of blood in my body before one of them ſhould eſcape my fury.—When I have finiſhed this taſk I will come and pay my reſpects to you.

CHAP. IV.

How Jack came to the before mentioned Caſtle and ſlew the other Giant, and cut off both his Heads, &c. &c.

JACK had not rode above a mile and half, before he came in ſight of the cave's mouth; near to the entrance of which he beheld this other Giant, ſitting upon a huge block of fine timber,

timber, with a knotted iron club lying by his ſide, waiting as he ſuppoſed, for his brother's return with his barbarous prey.

Jack alighted from his horſe and put him into a thicket, then, with his coat of darkneſs he approached ſomewhat nearer to behold his figure, and ſaid ſoftly, Oh! are you there? it will not be long ere I ſhall take you faſt by the beard. The Giant all this while could not ſee him by reaſon of his inviſible coat. So that coming up cloſe to him, Jack ſtruck a blow at

his head, with his ſword of ſharpneſs, but miſſing ſomething of his aim, he only cut off the Giant's noſe; who miſſing it, roared like claps of thunder. And tho' he turned up his glaring

glaring eyes, he could not ſee whence the blow came that had done him this diſkindneſs. Yet nevertheleſs, taking up his iron club, he began to lay about him like one ſtark ſtaring mad. Nay, ſays Jack, if you are for that game, I will diſpatch you preſently, for fear of ſome accidental blow; when as the Giant aroſe from his block, Jack made no more ado, but run his ſword up to the hilt in the Giant's fundament, where he left it ſticking awhile, and ſtood laughing with his hands a kimbo, to ſee the Giant caper, and dance the canaries with the ſword in his arſe, crying out. He ſhould die! he ſhould die! with the ſad griping of the guts. After this, Jack cut off his head, and ſent it, together with that of his brother, to King Arthur, by a waggoner he had hired for that purpoſe.

Jack

Jack having diſpatched theſe two monſters, was reſolved to enter the cave, in ſearch after the Giant's treaſure. He paſſed along thro' a great many turnings or windings, which led him at length to a great room; then he came to an iron gate; where a window was ſecured with bars of iron, through which he peeped, and there beheld a vaſt many miſerable captives, who ſeeing Jack at a great diſtance, cried out with a loud voice, Alas! young Man, art thou to be one amongſt us, in this miſerable den? Aye, ſaid Jack, I hope you ſhall not tarry here long: But pray tell me what is the meaning of this captivity? Why, ſaid one poor man, I will tell you, we are perſons that have been taken by the Giants that hold this cave, and we are kept till ſuch time they have occaſion for a feaſt more than ordinary, and then the fatteſt of us is ſlaughtered, and prepared for their devouring jaws. Say you ſo, ſays Jack, well, I have given them ſuch a dinner that it will be long enough ere they have occaſion for any more. The miſerable captives were amazed at his words. You may believe me ſays Jack, for I have ſlain them with the edge of my ſword, and in teſtimony of the truth of what he ſaid, he unlocked the iron gate, ſetting the miſerable captives at liberty, who all rejoiced like condemned malefactors at a reprieve. Then

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leading them to a room, he placed them round the table, and ſet before them two quarters of beef, as likewiſe bread and wine: ſo they feaſted very plentifully.

Supper being ended, they ſearched the Giant's coffers; where finding a vaſt ſtore of gold and ſilver, Jack equally divided it amongſt them. They returned him hearty thanks for their treaſure and miraculous deliverance. That night they went to reſt, and in the morning they aroſe and departed to their reſpective habitations, and Jack to the Knight's houſe, whom he had formerly delivered from the hands of the monſterous Giants.

FINIS.